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NEW COAL DEPOSITS REVEALED;
DOMESTIC COKE TO BE PRODUCED

SANDJAK PROSPECTING YIELDS MINERALS -- Rad, No 192, 13 Aug 49

Rich deposits of several minerals have been discovered in Pljevlja Srez in Montenegro. Preparatory work is already in progress toward the exploitation of zinc and lead. Deposits of barite and antimony have also been found.

Prospecting has revealed very rich coal seams in this district, and trial drilling in 60 places has revealed coal everywhere. The thickness of the seams of this good-quality coal is nearly 40 meters in some places. The coal is very clean and has little ash and high calorific value. It is bituminous, and its dry distillation would yield carbolic acid, creosote, paraffin, and other products for the chemical industry. Experimental semicoking with this coal has given good results. The construction of several furnaces for making semicoke for small foundries and blacksmith shops is in the planning stage.

Thus far, coal production in Pljevlja Srez has been small, though great enough to meet the demands of local industry and fuel requirements. The mine has not yet been mechanized. The work is done by hand, and the present municipal power plant in Pljevlja can furnish only a limited amount of power. However, a thermoelectric power plant 30 times stronger than the present one, to be built by the end of the year, will furnish sufficient power to mechanize both mines.

The construction of one of the largest thermoelectric power plants in Yugoslavia in the vicinity will increase the demand for coal. Soon the ground will be cleared in preparation for exploitation, and next year large areas of coal will be uncovered.

Eight apartments for families and a building to house over 100 single workers will be erected this year.

The construction of the power plant and railroad line will facilitate the expansion of operations. The coal will be worked in a surface mine and cut in layers. Most of the coal will be used by the large power plant and in industry. After the railroad line is built, large quantities of coal will be used for fuel and industrial uses.

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COAL MINE EXPANDED -- Rad, No 178, 28 Jul 49

Banovici -- The new "Radina" pit has been formally opened in the Tito coal field. Work on the new pit was begun last year and finished ahead of schedule.

In respect to equipment, its main corridor, and its drainage system, this is one of the best pits in the coal field. It is connected with the main railroad line by a spur. The first pit car loaded with coal left the new pit on 26 July.

GOOD-QUALITY COKE OBTAINABLE -- Borba, No 183, 3 Aug 49

By opening new mines and increasing the capacity of old ones, Yugoslav miners in 1948 had increased coal production by 63 percent over the prewar level, and lignite and brown coal production had more than doubled.

Before the war coke was not produced in Yugoslavia. Since foreign experts claimed that Yugoslav coal was of too poor quality, coke was always imported. Meanwhile Yugoslav experts have confirmed that good-quality coke can be obtained from Yugoslav coal. Large coke ovens are already being built. By the end of the Five-Year Plan, Yugoslavia will be producing its own coke independently of foreign sources.

The Five-Year Plan calls for an increase of 450 times in Yugoslav petroleum production by 1951, so that Yugoslavia will then be self-sufficient in petroleum. This plan is being realized. Many new oil fields of excellent quality, with a petroleum content of 20 to 30 percent, have been discovered. Rich reserves of natural gas, suitable for many uses in the chemical industry and for automobile fuel, have also been discovered.

NEW LEAD MINE OPENED -- Politika, No 13310, 7 Aug 49

On 5 August the new lead and zinc mine at Kopaonik was formally opened. Almost all the machinery and equipment for the new 11-kilometer ropeway and for the 43-kilometer Zvecan - Kopaonik high-tension power line, the crushers, and the mine equipment were made in Yugoslav factories and workshops without help from abroad. All this machinery and equipment had originally been ordered from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, or Poland, but was not delivered.

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